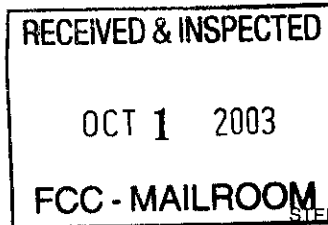




THOMAS L. WELCH
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
242 STATE STREET
18 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0018



STEPHEN L. DIAMOND
SHARON M. REISHUS
COMMISSIONERS

September 29, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II
445 12th Street, SW
Suite TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Irene Flannery
Universal Service Administrative Company
2120 L. Street, NW – Suite 600
Washington, DC 20037

Re: Docket No. 96-45, Certification Letter Pursuant to the requirements of the
RTF Order and 47 CFR § 54.313 and 54.314, for the year 2004

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Flannery:

On May 10, 2001, the FCC adopted a modified mechanism to provide high-cost support to rural carriers. *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, 14th Report and Order and 21st Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-45 (FCC 01-157), released May 10, 2001 (Rural USF Order). That Order requires states to certify by October 1, 2003, that the rural carrier(s) in their jurisdiction will use the federal support in compliance with section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This certification letter is being submitted to satisfy that requirement.

In accordance with the requirements of that Order, the Maine Public Utilities Commission certifies that all the federal high-cost funds provided to our rural companies, in Maine will be used in a manner consistent with the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 254(e). All federal high-cost support will be used only to support those services for which the support is intended.

A list of rural LECs in Maine to which this certification applies is attached to this letter.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Joel Shifman at joel.shifman@maine.gov or at (207)287-1381.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

DLK/llp
Attachment



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

014

1. China Telephone Company
2. Cobbosseecontee Telephone & Telegraph Company
3. Community Service Telephone Company
4. Hampden Telephone Company
5. Hartland St. Albans Telephone Company
6. The Island Telephone Company
7. Lincolnville Telephone Company
8. Maine Telephone Company
9. Mid-Maine Telecom
10. Northland Telephone Company
11. Oxford Telephone Company
12. Oxford West Telephone Company
13. Pine Tree Telephone & Telegraph Company
14. Saco River Telegraph & Telephone Company
15. Sidney Telephone Company
16. Somerset Telephone Company
17. Standish Telephone Company
18. Tidewater Telecom, Inc.
19. Union River Telephone Company
20. Unitel, Inc.
21. Warren Telephone Company
22. West Penobscot Telephone Company